GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2965
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
DELAY OF AI FLIGHT
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers were held up for 20 hours on the Air India flight from Delhi to New york as reported in Dainik Jagaran on February 28, 2008;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has investigated the exact cause of delay due to which plane could not fly in time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such a situation in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Yes,Sir.The Air India`s flight AI-111 of 27.2.2008 on Delhi-London-New York route had to be rescheduled from 0720 hours to 0255 hours on 28.2.2008.Though the aircraft was ready,a combination of factors like fuel spillage,behaviour of some recalcitrant passengers,off-loading of a medical case,Flight Duty Time Limitation(FDTL) of pilots and night curfew at London airport led to this rescheduling.

(e): Fuel spillage at the time of aircraft fueling is not an unusual occurrence in the airline industry.Air India have been advised to deal firmly with troublesome passengers,including exploring recourse to legal action,so that the other passengers are not made to suffer.